

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AGR-20 COME-00 SP-03 AID-20

NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 L-03 H-03 SWF-02 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 /146 R

DRAFTED BY EB/ICD/TRP:PPPILKAUSKAS:DE

APPROVED BY EB/ICD/TRP:TJODONNELL

AF/S:DPCHRISTENSEN

AF/EPS:ROMBARDI

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R 202339Z AUG 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EPAP, US, WZ

SUBJECT: SUGAR LEGISLATION STATUS REPORT

REF: MBABANE 1555 (NOTAL)

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. CONGRESS HAS NOT TAKEN ANY FORMAL ACTION ON SUGAR LEGISLATION SINCE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE SUGAR ACT WERE DEFEATED ON THE HOUSE FLOOR ON JUNE 6, 1974. IT IS NOT YET CLEAR WHAT FURTHER ACTION CONGRESS MAY TAKE ON THE SUGAR ACT. CHAIRMAN POAGE OF THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO TAKE ACTION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. CHAIRMAN LONG OF THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS INFORMED CHAIRMAN POAGE THAT HE MAY SEEK TO

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AMEND THE TRADE BILL WITH A SUGAR AMENDMENT, AND IN THIS

EVENT THE OUTCOME COULD BE SIMPLY AN EXTENSION OF CURRENT QUOTAS. HOWEVER, DOMESTIC PRODUCERS DO NOT APPEAR TO BE PRESSING FOR ACTION WHILE PRICES REMAIN HIGH. THE GENERAL FEELING IN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IS THAT SUGAR LEGISLATION IS UNLIKELY BEFORE THE U.S. ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER AND PROBABLY WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED BEFORE THE FIRST SESSION OF THE NEW CONGRESS, IF THEN.

2. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT REPEAT NOT VOTE ON JULY 5 TO EXTEND EXISTING LEGISLATION FOR ONE YEAR. THE

HOUSE TOOK NO ACTION IN REGARD TO SUGAR ON JULY 5, NOR ANY OTHER DATE SINCE JUNE 6 WHEN THE SUGAR BILL WAS DEFEATED ON THE HOUSE FLOOR.

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3. ADMINISTRATION POLICY WITH REGARD TO SUGAR LEGISLATION HAS NOT CHANGED. THE ADMINISTRATION CONTINUES TO LEAVE THE INITIATIVE ON THIS MATTER TO CONGRESS, BUT IS PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ON EXTENSION OF THE ACT IF THE LATTER SHOULD DECIDE TO INITIATE SUCH ACTION.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, SUGAR, LAW, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE183025
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PPPILKAUSKAS:DE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740230-0091
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740832/aaaabbdb.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MBABANE 1555 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUGAR LEGISLATION STATUS REPORT
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, EPAP, US, WZ
To: MBABANE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005